employees below the Board level, Government is neither the Appointing, Disciplinary, Appellate nor the Reviewing Authority and as such the Government does not intervene in the service matters of such employees of the public sector undertakings.

The company has reported that the said employee had filed a writ petition in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court against the disciplinary proceedings initiated against him by the mangement and the writ petition was dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court. While dismissing the petition the Hon'ble Delhi High Court observed "The petitioner has been unauthorisedly abstaining himself from joining since March, 1989. This is nothing short of indiscipline. In these circumstances, we are not inclined to interfere Dismissed." Aggrieved by these orders of the High Court, the petitioner filed two Special Leave Petitions in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India which were also rejected.

**Krishak Bharati Co-operative Limited**

3092. SHRI NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Krishak Bharati Co-operative Limited (KRIBHCO) has been driven to the path of sickness because of their inability to resort to influence paddling;

(b) if, what is the present status of KRIBHCO and the reasons for its sickness; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the new management of KRIBHCO and the Government to salvage its Rs. 142 crores investments with the scam-tainted finance companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) KRIBHCO has been earning profits consistently ever since it started commercial production. In fact, it has made a record post-tax profit of Rs. 145.58 crores during 1992-93.

(c) Out of the total deposits of Rs. 142.00 crores in Andhra Bank Financial Services Ltd. (ABFSL) and Canara Bank Financial Services Ltd. (Canfina), Rs. 11.50 crores, have since been recovered. KRIBHCO has made representation to the Reserve Bank of India to issue directions under the Banking Regulations Act to the above two banking companies to pay the outstanding deposits. The Society is also vigourously following up the matter with ABFSL/ Andhra Bank and Canfina/Canara Bank for recovery of the amounts due. ABFSL have offered to deliver IRFC Bonds for face value of Rs. 81 crores against the amounts owed by them to KRIBHCO.

**Fermentation of antibiotics at IDPL, Rishikesh**

3093. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported in the press that there have been heavy losses in fermentation of antibiotics like penicillin at IDPL, Rishikesh on account of power failure and if so, the losses suffered over the past three years, product-wise;

(b) whether such failures and reduced production have resulted in shortages of these vital drugs and possibility led to imports; and

(c) whether Government have drawn up any plans such as separate power supply and/or any other contingency foolproof plan and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The production of Pot. Penicillin, Streptomycin, Tetracycline and Oxytetracycline had suffered due to power failures in IDPL, Rishikesh Plant during the last 3 years. The losses suffered during the said years on account of power failures were as under :—

(in terms of value)
(Rs./crores)

| 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 |
|---|---|---|
| 1.87 | 1.99 | 2.39 |

(b) No Sir.

(c) Captive power generation is capital intensive for such fermentation plants. However, after detailed study by Experts in the Revival Package, IDPL has planned to instal 3 DG Sets and Diesel Engine operated air compressor to meet critical needs.

**Taking over of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers**

3094. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government for taking over the Government owned public sector unit Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) by the Maharashtra State Co-operative sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether government had recently disinvested about Rs. 30 crores to mutual funds and private firms; and

(d) what is the decision if any taken by Government with regard to part (b) above stating the reasons in case a decision to handover the RCF to the co-operative sector is taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) and (d) Does not arise.

(c) Government has so far disinvested 4,13,73,200 shares of RCF (of the face value of Rs. 10 each) to various Financial Institutions/Mutual Funds at a total realisation of Rs. 61,09,49,801.

**Shortage of fertilizers**

3095. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there is an acute shortage of fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the number and names of fertilizer units which have either been closed down or have cut short their production due to various reasons;

(d) whether there is any pending application with the Government for setting up of new fertilizer units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government for making easy availability of fertilizers to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (f) At present there is no shortage of fertilizers in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) One DAP unit (M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., Haldia) and one complex fertilizer unit (M/s. Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., Taloja) have currently suspended their operations. The remaining 13 DAP/complex fertilizer units are operating at less than their full capacities due to reduced sales.

Regarding units producing Single Superphosphate (SSP) in the medium and small scale sectors, it is reported that as on 30-6-1993 about 25 such units in small scale sector were either not operating or were operating at very low capacity due to liquidity problems and reduction in off-take.

(d) and (e) As per Industrial Policy of July, 1991, no licence is required for the manufacture of fertilizers. However in the public/cooperative sector, M/s. National Fertilizers Ltd. and M/s. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd., have proposed doubling of the capacties of their existing urea plants at Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh) and Aonla (Uttar Pradesh), respectively. M/s. KRIBHCO are also interested in putting up a nitrophosphate plant in their Hazira (Gujarat) complex.

**Drugs industry's proposal to provide essential drugs at low prices to weaker sections**

3096. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether drug industry in the country has revised its proposal for full decontrol of drug prices in return for the availability of essential drugs at low prices to weaker sections through special distribution system;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the scheme put forward by the drug industry; and

(c) if so, the decision, if any, taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No such proposal for coverage of all weaker sections has been received from the drug industry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Charges against IDPL official**

3097. SHRI BRAHMADEO ANAND PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to the unstarred question 463 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29-7-93 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the charges and remarks of Dir. (Mktg.) are already indicated on the letters dated 6-3-89, aide-memoire of 14-3-89, 25-4-89, 17-5-89, 6-6-89, 28-6-89, 3-8-89, 25-8-89, 4-10-89 which are duly acknowledged by the company or not, together with reasons therefor;